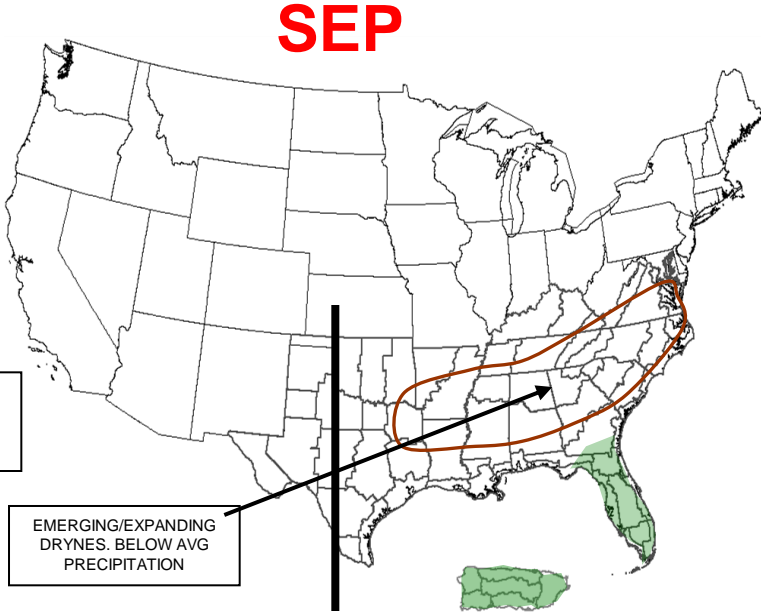
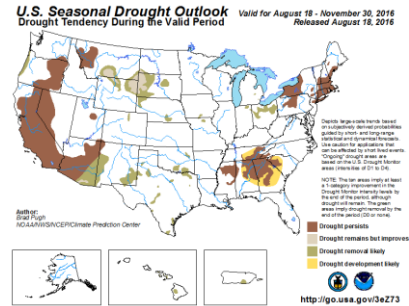


PREVIOUS MONTH JUL

PEAKING TROPICAL ACTIVITY.  
TROPICAL RAIN RISKS ELEVATED THIS  
YEAR FOR GOMEX AND MID ATLANTIC DUE  
TO DEVELOPING/TRANSITION TO LA NINA

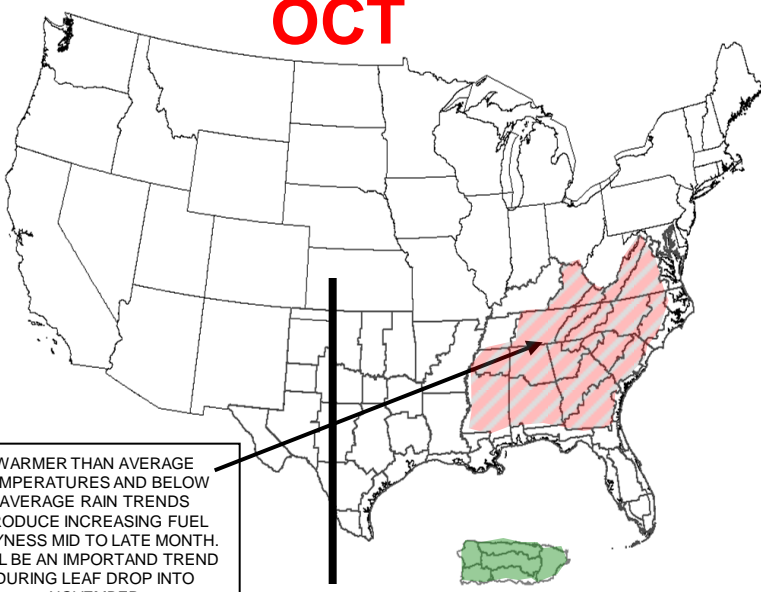


# SEP



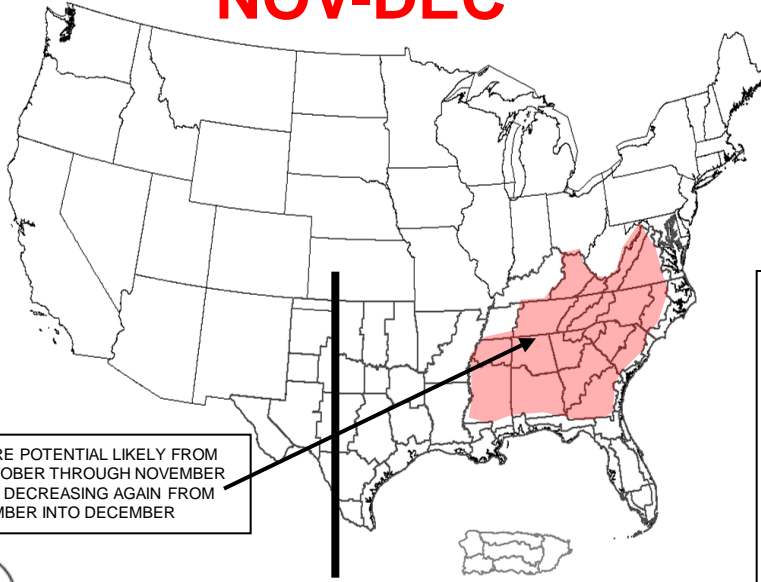
CURRENT DROUGHT

SEP remains an interesting month as we begin the transition to fall. Robust August rain fall west of the Mississippi (esp. flooding rain from Texas to Louisiana (from a undeclared and slow moving tropical low) significantly impacted (reduced) the emerging and intensifying drought that was developing through summer in the southeast. In addition, the ENSO transition to a La Nina has been lackluster at best and is altering the typical risks seen at this point in the ENSO transition. Consequently the drier than average conditions that were thought to continue to emerge from August was severely attenuated.



# OCT

OCT. While drier than average rain anomalies are expected in areas during October the likely still lackluster transition to La Nina indicates the South will still see a progressive weather pattern and some rain. Thinking at this time is there will be some dryness during the leaf drop period and with warmer than average temperatures expected in the east/southeast we should still be anticipating an elevated fall fire risk season. Without a moderate to strong La Nina, the dryness normally expected will be less than previously thought and more muted and discontinuous over the South. In addition, any elevated tropical threat that may well bleed into October and November due to the weak ENSO episode may also open the door to a mosaic of greater rain activity.



# NOV-DEC

A WEAK LA NINA, VICE THE MODERATE TO STRONG PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED EARLIER THIS YEAR, WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER THE RAIN PATTERNS EXPECTED IN NOVEMBER. WHILE WE WILL SE DRYNESS AND LOWER RHs FROM INCREASING FRONTAL PASSAGES, THE MOISTURE SITUATION FROM THE FALL RAINS AND THE STRENGTH OF THE DRIER PATTERN WITH A WEAKER/WEAK LA NINA WILL PLAY A LARGE PART IN WHAT FIRE RISKS REMAIN DURING THE LATE FALL/PEAK LEAF DROP PERIOD. EXPECTED WARMER THAN AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN THE SOUTHEAST AND EAST WILL SURELY ACCENTUATE FUELS DRYING.



**Drought and Fuel Conditions**

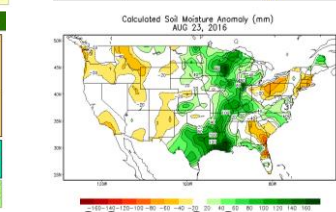
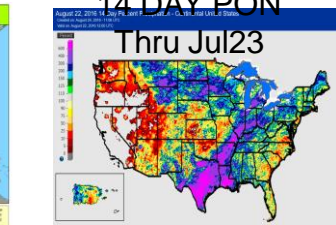
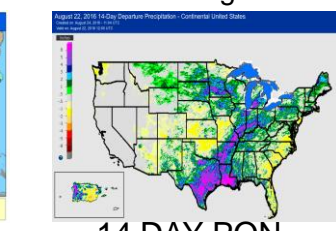
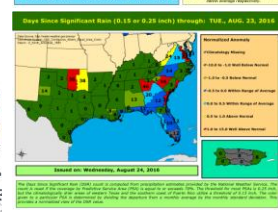
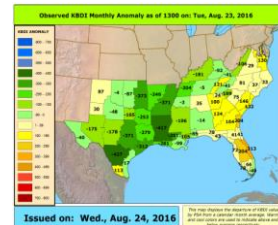
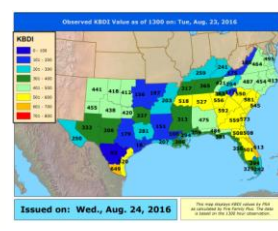
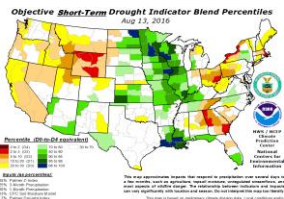
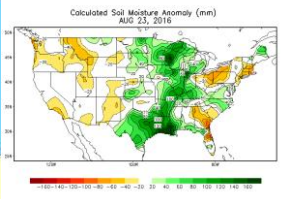
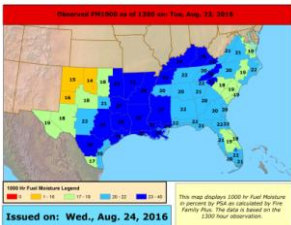
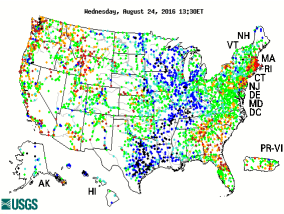
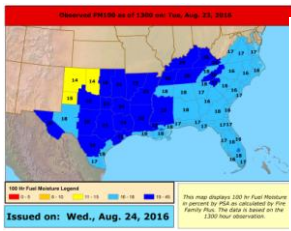
“Short” term dryness levels that were building during July have seen some retreat during August due to daily recurring periods of moderate rain activity. This is especially true for areas of west and central Texas which saw a return of moderate plus rain. Pending interior rain from tropical activity during the period, we still expect a drier than average rain pattern to evolve which will should become more apparent again from September into November. Fuels moistures have increased back above (in some areas well above) critical threshold during August and should keep significant fire risks across the South muted into September. As we have seen in past years, any prolonged or especially intense drying from tropical system subsidence could result in regional amplification of fire potential from accelerated drying. Puerto Rico will likely remain in moist conditions through the now peaking tropical season – which will remain active into October.

**Weather and Climate Outlook:**

A WEAK LA NINA, VICE THE MODERATE TO STRONG EPISODE PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED TO EVOLVE LATE THIS YEAR, WILL SIGNIFICANTLY PLAY A ROLE IN ALTERING THE SEVERITY AND EXTENT OF A DRIER THAN AVERAGE RAIN PATTERN EXPECTED THIS FALL. WHILE WE WILL STILL SEE DRYNESS AND LOWER RHs FROM INCREASING FRONTAL PASSAGES, THE MOISTURE SITUATION FROM THE FALL RAINS AND THE STRENGTH OF THE DRIER PATTERN WITH A WEAKER/WEAK LA NINA WILL PLAY A LARGE PART IN WHAT FIRE RISKS REMAIN DURING THE LATE FALL/PEAK LEAF DROP PERIOD. EXPECTED WARMER THAN AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN THE SOUTHEAST AND EAST WILL SURELY ACCENTUATE FUELS DRYING AND KEEP THE PROSPECTS FOR A RETURN TO AT LEAST AN AVERAGE TYPE FALL SEASON IN PLAY FOR THIS OUTLOOK PERIOD. WEAK FALL FIRE SEASONS HAVE NOW BEEN OBSERVED THE LAST 3 YEARS. LIKELY WEAK LA NINA CONDITIONS SHOULD PRODUCE DRIER WEATHER PATTERNS AND A SUBSEQUENT HIGHER IGNITION RECEPTIVE DRIER FINE FUEL ENVIRONMENT. SOME ADDED UNCERTAINTY EXISTS TO THE AREA(S) AND MAGNITUDE OF THE DRYING DUE TO THE NOW WEAKER THAN EXPECTED LA NINA EPISODE THAT SHOULD EVOLVE.

**Fire Activity and Area Discussion:**

We will be particularly monitoring our southeast states and the Appalachian Mountain region (southern areas particularly) during the FALL where drought conditions continue to persist. We will be expecting a trending increase in initial attack here as well in in other locations of the South as the expected La Nina drier than average weather pattern evolves. In addition, above average temperature trends in our central and eastern states should also amplify ignition risks back into at least average ranges.

**14 DAY DEP  
Thru Aug23****30 DAY DEP  
Thru Aug23****14 DAY PON  
Thru Jul23****30 DAY PON  
Thru Jul23****SOIL MOISTURE  
ANOMALY****SOIL MOISTURE  
OUTLOOK THRU NOV**